

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 9-21 (all claims of record), as indicated in item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action. In particular, the latter claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the formal grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. For the reasons set forth hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-21 are now allowable.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comments in item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 13, 2005. In particular, the Office Action indicates that a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document was not included and that the IDS has accordingly been placed in the file but has not been considered, at least to the extent of the foreign patent documents cited therein.

In response to these comments, Applicants note that their files, including the date stamped receipted postcard acknowledging filing of this application, indicate that copies of all of the cited patent documents were submitted. Nevertheless, a second Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted herewith, including a copy of German patent document DE 199 30 763 A1, which is referred to in paragraph [0002] of the specification of the present application. Accordingly, in order to facilitate the further examination and allowance of this application, Applicants have submitted herewith copies of the three foreign

patent documents cited in the previous Information Disclosure Statement, together with a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report and a translation thereof, as well as a copy of the International Search Report and a translation of the pertinent portions thereof, indicating the significance of the documents cited therein. Applicants request that all such documents be considered of record in the present application.

With regard to the guidelines for the specification of a utility patent application set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Applicants believe that the substitute specification submitted June 13, 2005 complies with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. If, however, the Examiner believes that the format is deficient in some particular, a further explanation would be appreciated.

Claims 9-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, based on certain formal issues identified in item 3 on page 3 of the Office Action. In response to these grounds of rejection, Applicants have amended the claims in a manner which addresses and is believed to resolve the cited formal issues. In particular, Claims 9 and 19 have been amended to clarify that the goods rail is composed of "at least a front partial rail and a rear partial rail", thereby providing an antecedent basis for those phrases as they appear later on in Claims 9 and 19, and the dependent claims as well. In addition, Applicants have also reviewed Claims 9 and 13, and have made additional revisions to improve

the format, and resolve possible additional formal issues, without, however, altering the scope of the claims. Accordingly, Claims 9 and 19, and therefore all claims of record are now believed to be allowable.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56328US).

Respectfully submitted,



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